

European Patent Office
As International Preliminary Examining Authority
Erhardstrasse 27
80469 Munich
Germany

Our ref: 11592 WO TJH/EAD

By facsimile

Confirmation by hand

14 November 2005

Dear Sirs,

International Patent Application No PCT/GB2005/000107
Polymer Sciences Limited

I file herewith a Demand for International Preliminary Examination of the above application together with an amended set of claims on which we wish International Preliminary Examination to be based.

Summary of Amendments

The claims have been amended to direct them to a method of providing a plurality of soft contact lenses, and to related products and apparatus. Independent method claim 1 now contains the requirement that at least immediately subsequently to the physical forming step B, the shaped lens blanks remain at least partially attached to the sheet of material from which they are formed.

The issues raised in the Written Opinion of the International Search Report are now addressed in turn below.

Unity of Invention (Rule 13 PCT)

It is submitted that the present set of claims has unity of invention because claims 2 to 26, by virtue of their dependency on claim 1, are unified by the features of claim 1. Claims 27 to 42 relate either to product made by the claimed method or to apparatus

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adapted to carry out the method. As such claims 27 to 42 are unious with the method claims.

Novelty and Inventive Step (Article 31(1) PCT)

It is submitted that the present claims are novel over the cited prior art documents because none of the prior art documents disclose production of a plurality of soft contact lenses wherein at least subsequently to the physical forming step, the shaped lens blanks remain at least partially attached to the sheet from which they are formed. Such a feature, is not suggested by the cited prior art or by the common general knowledge of a person skilled in the art. It is therefore submitted that the present claims define subject matter having an inventive step.

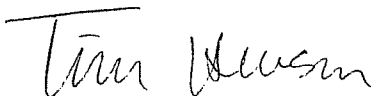
Description (Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT)

It is proposed to defer amendment of the description until the national phase.

Conclusion

A positive International Preliminary Examination Report in respect of the present claims is respectfully requested. Should the International Preliminary Examining Authority have objection to the present claims, despite the amendments and comments filed herewith, the Applicant request the issuance of a further Written Opinion.

Yours faithfully,



Timothy John Hewson
Agent

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